

To: Hingeley, Maureen[Hingeley.Maureen@epa.gov]; Bahadori, Tina[Bahadori.Tina@epa.gov]; Ross, Mary[Ross.Mary@epa.gov]; D'Amico, Louis[DAmico.Louis@epa.gov]; Louie, Nica[Louie.Nica@epa.gov]; Li, Sylvana[li.sylvana@epa.gov]; Champlin, Anna[Champlin.Anna@epa.gov]
Cc: Silzer, Stefan[Silzer.Stefan@epa.gov]; Heckman, Deborah[Heckman.Deborah@epa.gov]; Cursio, Heather[Cursio.Heather@epa.gov]
From: Jones, Samantha
Sent: Fri 2/2/2018 11:38:11 PM
Subject: RE: review/comment: GAO Draft Report: Food Safety: Federal Efforts to Manage the Risk of Arsenic in Rice (GAO-18-199)

Hi Maureen,

We looked at the GAO report and don't have any major concerns. EPA activities described, mainly submission of assessment development plan and preliminary materials to NRC and consultation on pregnancy outcomes and neurodevelopmental effects, are accurate. The GAO report relies heavily on NRC report to draw conclusions for health effects, as well as 14 additional reviews. We don't think there are any expectations of EPA. There is no criticism on the extent or nature of FDA's coordination with EPA.

In a more nuanced analysis of the report, we have some opinions to offer for GAO's consideration, at their discretion. In relation to the 14 reviews GAO considered:

- None of the reviews focus on bladder cancer; although not a review, they may want to consider the highly relevant NCI US bladder cancer study (Baris et al, 2016) of "Elevated Bladder Cancer in Northern New England: The Role of Drinking Water and Arsenic";
- The only lung cancer review, Lamm et al. (2015), presented major issues that we had with bias with respect to study selection and the use of unpublished study data;
- The only CVD review, Phung et al. (2017), focuses on non-US population (Vietnam), which may be a historically high iAs exposure area which (as we have noted in our assessment materials for areas like China, Taiwan and Bangladesh) may not be relevant to low exposed populations like the US;
- Most of the reviews seem to be of studies in high exposure populations;
- There are some highly relevant meta-analyses that we could recommend for their review that came out after June, 2017, particularly the bladder and lung cancer meta-analysis of Lynch et al. (2017, including erratum) and the CVD meta-analysis of Moon et al. (2017).

Thank you,

Samantha

Samantha J. Jones, PhD

NCEA Associate Director for Health (acting)

HHRA Interim Deputy National Program Director

USEPA, ORD/NCEA

(o) 202-564-6794; (m) 703-943-7990

From: Hingeley, Maureen

Sent: Tuesday, January 30, 2018 8:37 AM

To: Bahadori, Tina <Bahadori.Tina@epa.gov>; Ross, Mary <Ross.Mary@epa.gov>; Jones, Samantha <Jones.Samantha@epa.gov>; D'Amico, Louis <DAmico.Louis@epa.gov>; Louie, Nica <Louie.Nica@epa.gov>; Li, Sylvana <li.sylvana@epa.gov>; Osaka, Anna <Osaka.Anna@epa.gov>

Cc: Silzer, Stefan <Silzer.Stefan@epa.gov>; Heckman, Deborah <Heckman.Deborah@epa.gov>; Cursio, Heather <Cursio.Heather@epa.gov>

Subject: RE: review/comment: GAO Draft Report: Food Safety: Federal Efforts to Manage the Risk of Arsenic in Rice (GAO-18-199)

Good morning,

As FYI, OCSPP reviewed the attached draft report on arsenic in rice and have no comments. Please send any comments by next Friday Feb 9th. Thank you.

Best,

Maureen

From: Hingeley, Maureen

Sent: Tuesday, January 23, 2018 10:16 AM

To: Bahadori, Tina <Bahadori.Tina@epa.gov>; Ross, Mary <Ross.Mary@epa.gov>; Jones, Samantha <Jones.Samantha@epa.gov>; D'Amico, Louis <DAmico.Louis@epa.gov>; Louie, Nica <Louie.Nica@epa.gov>; Li, Sylvana <li.sylvana@epa.gov>

Cc: Silzer, Stefan <Silzer.Stefan@epa.gov>; Heckman, Deborah <Heckman.Deborah@epa.gov>; Cursio, Heather <Cursio.Heather@epa.gov>

Subject: review/comment: GAO Draft Report: Food Safety: Federal Efforts to Manage the Risk of Arsenic in Rice (GAO-18-199)

Good morning,

For agency review/comment, GAO has issued the attached draft report on arsenic in rice entitled, *Food Safety: Federal Efforts to Manage the Risk of Arsenic in Rice* (GAO-18-199). The draft report contains 5 recommendations addressed to FDA and USDA (none to EPA) to 'develop a timeline for updating risk assessments and finalizing guidance, develop a coordination mechanism for developing methods to detect foodborne contaminants, including arsenic'. Please note that OCSPP is also reviewing the report.

Could NCEA please send any comments to OPARM's Maureen Hingeley by Friday Feb 9th. Please share the report with others as appropriate. If there are any questions or additional information is needed, please let me know. Thank you.

Best,

Maureen Hingeley

Office of Program Accountability and Resource Management

Office of Research and Development

EPA

202-564-1306 (office)

202-875-9628 (mobile)

